

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Sherri Walker Hobson (619)557-5027

For Immediate Release

INTERNATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE LAB SUPPLY RING DISMANTLED BY FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 12, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam today announced the unsealing of six indictments handed up by a federal grand jury sitting in the Southern District of California, which charge twenty defendants with: smuggling, transporting, and distributing precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine; methamphetamine trafficking; and related offenses. The indictments were the product of a lengthy investigation led by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with the assistance of several local, state, and federal agencies.

According to ICE officials, since November 2003 the investigation has led to the seizure of over 1100 pounds of iodine, 37 gallons of hypophosphorous acid, and 25 gallons of hydriodic acid at the international border with Mexico or, shortly after having crossed the border. These chemicals are commonly used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine. The indictments allege that the iodine, hypophosphorous acid, and

hydriodic acid were smuggled into the United States by a group identified as the Carrillo organization. "These indictments allege that twenty defendants, including high-ranking leaders of the Carrillo organization, were smuggling unprecedented quantities of precursor chemicals over our borders to feed illegal methamphetamine laboratories," said United States Attorney Lam.

Officials from the Drug Enforcement Administration Southwest Laboratory calculated that the quantity of chemicals seized could be used to manufacture approximately 550 pounds of methamphetamine. According to ICE officials, there is no known legitimate use for the large quantity of iodine seized, and that its only known use is to make illicit methamphetamine. ICE officials noted that its agents had never before seized so much iodine in connection with one smuggling organization.

"Methamphetamine is a horrible drug that destroys lives and ruins communities," said Michael Unzueta, San Diego ICE Acting Special-Agent-in-Charge for Investigations. "From an enforcement standpoint, this case is a prime example of national and international teamwork. By pooling our information and our resources, ICE and its law enforcement partners succeeded in dismantling a criminal organization that posed a serious threat to many communities."

The first indictment charges fifteen defendants, including the leaders and managers of the Carrillo organization, Manuel Carrillo-Carrillo of Mexico, Jose Carrillo-Carrillo of Santa Ana, California, and Domingo Avalos-Carrillo of Mexico, with: conspiracy to aid and abet the manufacturing of methamphetamine, to import, to possess and to distribute listed chemicals, including iodine, hypophosphorous acid, and hydriodic acid, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that the chemicals would be used to manufacture methamphetamine; and conspiracy to launder money, within the Southern District of California and elsewhere. The defendants are also charged with smuggling iodine, hypophosphorous acid, and hydriodic acid, all precursor chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine, through the Southern California Ports of Entry, for distribution to methamphetamine traffickers throughout California.

The second indictment charges Jose Carrillo-Carrillo of Santa Ana, California, Manuel Carrillo-Carrillo of Mexico and Manuel Carrillo-Bucio of Escondido, California, with: conspiracy to possess with

intent to distribute 17.81 pounds of methamphetamine; and possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. The third indictment charges Jose Carrillo-Carrillo, Victor Uriba-Mora of Las Vegas and Cynthia Partida of Escondido, California with: conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. The remaining indictments charge couriers Cynthia Diana Rojero of Escondido, California, Edward Gutierrez of Signal Hill, California, Guadalupe Del La Cruz of Escondido, California, and Martin Rodriguez-Damas of Mexico, with importation and possession of listed chemicals, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the chemicals would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

United States Attorney Lam praised the extraordinary contributions of the local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies whose efforts brought this investigation to a successful conclusion.

DEFENDANTS

Indictment #1 **Counts: 22** **Criminal Case Number: 04 CR 2889BTM**

Manuel Carrillo-Carrillo (1)

Jose Carrillo-Carrillo (2)

Domingo Avalos-Carrillo (3)

Manuel Carrillo-Bucio (4)

Name Withheld Pending Arrest (5)

Name Withheld Pending Arrest (6)

Jose De Jesus Rodrigo (7)

Jose Jesus Velasquez Soto (8)

Felipe Vasquez-Alcantara (9)

Rodolfo Hernandez-Rodriguez (10)

Raul Pelayo (11)

Guadalupe De La Cruz (12)

Name Withheld Pending Arrest (13)

Cuahtemoc Molina-Lemus (14)

Rita Carrillo De Gonzalez (15)

INDICTMENT #2

Counts: 3

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2890 BTM

Jose Carrillo-Carrillo (1)

Manuel Carrillo-Carrillo (2)

Manuel Carrillo-Bucio (3)

INDICTMENT #3

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2891 BTM

Jose Carrillo-Carrillo (1)

Victor Manuel Uribe-Mora (2)

Cynthia Partida (3)

INDICTMENTS #4-6

Cynthia Rojero

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2893 BTM

Edward Gutierrez

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2892 BTM

Martin Rodriguez-Damas

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2984 BTM

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Total number of defendants: 20

Indictment #1

Counts: 22

Criminal Case Number: 04 CR 2889BTM

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Aid and Abet the Manufacturing of Methamphetamine. Penalties: 10 years to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release; 1,000,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(c)(2) - Conspiracy to Possess and Distribute Listed Chemicals Knowing and Having Reasonable Cause to Believe That The Chemicals Would Be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance. Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 960(d)(3) and 963 - Conspiracy to Import Listed Chemicals Knowing and Having Reasonable Cause to Believe That The Chemicals Would Be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance. Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(c)(2) - Possession of Listed Chemicals Knowing and Having Reasonable Cause to Believe That The Chemicals Would Be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance. Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Section 960(d)(3) - Importation of Listed Chemicals Knowing and Having Reasonable Cause to Believe That The Chemicals Would Be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance
Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h) - Conspiracy to Launder Money. Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine.

Indictment #2

Counts: 3

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2890 BTM

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a) - Conspiracy to Possess With Intent To Distribute Methamphetamine. Penalties: 10 years to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release; 1,000,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) - Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute. Penalties: 10 years to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release; 1,000,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 960, 963 - Conspiracy to Import Methamphetamine. Penalties: 10 years to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release; 1,000,000 fine.

Indictment #3

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2891 BTM

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine.
Penalties: 10 years to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release; 1,000,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) - Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute. Penalties: 10 years to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release; 1,000,000 fine.

Indictments #4-6

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2893 BTM

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2892 BTM

Counts: 2

Criminal Case No. 04 CR 2984 BTM

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(c)(2) - Possession of Listed Chemicals Knowing and Having Reasonable Cause to Believe That The Chemicals Would Be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance. Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Section 960(d)(3) - Importation of Listed Chemicals Knowing and Having Reasonable Cause to Believe That The Chemicals Would Be Used to Manufacture a Controlled Substance. Penalties: 20 years in custody; 3 years of supervised release, \$250,000 fine.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Customs and Border Protection (BCP)

California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE)

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

San Diego Sheriff's Office (SDSO)

Los Angeles Police Department

Costa Mesa Police Department

Anaheim Police Department

Ontario Police Department

Torrance Police Department

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.